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8 October 1958

TO: Assistant Director for Research and Reports

FROM: Chief, Economic Research Area

SUBJECT: Activity Report for the Month of September 1958

1. The JAEIC Economic Working Group, chaired by the Chief D/M, and including representatives from OSI, AISC, State and Navy, continued its meetings to consider research papers - produced primarily by ORR - and continued the preparation of a coordinated economic contribution to NIE 11-2-59, The Soviet Atomic Energy Program.

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2. The program for backstopping the [REDACTED] is proceeding. Members of the Guided Missile Branch met with the Chairman, GMIC, following his return [REDACTED]. He expressed a most favorable impression of the potential of the [REDACTED] program and recommended increased support from DD/P and DD/I. [REDACTED] has also reported his preliminary impressions of its value to I/GM and to other ORR components. He will recommend that two ORR analysts be assigned [REDACTED] to exploit the potential for I/GM and ORR generally. In the meantime, the Industrial Division has screened 850 dossiers of the [REDACTED] and selected 300 for priority interrogations.

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3. [REDACTED] of the Guided Missile Branch has been named a consultant to the Executive Board of the Missile and Astronautics Division of the American Ordnance Association. This appointment should be of direct benefit to the Branch because of the rewarding industrial contacts made and the accessibility of written material on production problems and techniques not otherwise distributed.

4. Construction Branch (D/S) advised the U.S. Commissioner of Reclamation concerning itineraries in the USSR and USA for Soviet and American hydroelectric power exchange groups. This advice figured in a conference held in Washington, D. C., 30 September - 1 October at which it was agreed that the U.S. could select specific installations irrespective of location in the USSR for inclusion in the itinerary of the American group.

5. Trade Controls Branch (D/S) has given support daily to the ACEP Operating Committee's review of the U.S. security export control list. The Committee's recommendations on the extent of control to be exercised over the more than 300 items composing the list were presented to the Secretary of Commerce for his decision on 2 October.

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25X1C8e 6. International Trade Branch (D/S) began a series of discussions with [REDACTED] and members of the Department of State on the 1956 Soviet Foreign Trade Handbook and other aspects of the Soviet foreign trade.

25X1A5a1 7. Chief, D/A and members of the USSR Branch met with representatives of [REDACTED] to discuss respective tentative plans for publishing alternative industrial production indexes in rebuttal of G. Warren Nutter's expressed views on the rate of growth of Soviet industrial production.

8. Current Support activity in September covered a wide range, with the greatest emphasis being given to the several Bloc programs for a "giant step forward". The Taiwan Straits and Middle East situations also received heavy attention. Other major items included: guided missile activity, Bloc logistic support to the Middle East, economic penetration activities, economic reorganization and agriculture and consumption in Eastern Europe.

9. With regard to external research, [REDACTED] International Trade Branch, discussed a proposed project on Bloc Trade with the West with Dr. Herbert Wooley of the National Bureau of Economic Research. [REDACTED]

Agriculture Branch (D/M) is surveying [REDACTED] research facilities with respect to a proposed project on European satellite agriculture, and Chief, D/M plans to hold discussions with [REDACTED]

25X1A5a1 [REDACTED] on a proposed project on Communist Chinese agriculture.

10. The ERA has tentatively adopted a proposal that self-initiated reports will henceforth carry the names of individual analysts principally responsible for their preparation.

25X1A9a 11. Recruiting contacts in universities have been greatly strengthened by the distribution of CIA unclassified documents through the field recruiters, according to [REDACTED] Chief, Specialized Recruiting Branch, Personnel Procurement Division. The field recruiters report an enthusiastic response at Harvard and California particularly. Efforts are being made to release other ORR publications to the academic community through these channels.

12. A meeting was held between staff members of the Office of Personnel, their field recruiters and ERA recruiters for 1958 to discuss plans for the annual field recruitment of professions for ERA. This year during late October and November, ERA recruiters will visit colleges and universities in the South in addition to those usually visited in the East, Mid-West and on the West Coast. We have also decided to try a new approach which we hope will project our interests to a wider range of potential employees. The ERA recruiters will give a speech which briefly describes the Agency and emphasizes the work done in ERA and following the talk will individually interview those candidates who are interested in future employment.

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13. During September two candidates, including one ERA 1957 recruit, entered on duty; four prospectives including one ERA 1957 recruit were put in process; and one candidate cancelled his application. At present ERA has 18 candidates in process, four of whom will BOD the first week in October.

14. The following ERA personnel returned from PCS assignments:

25X1A9a a. [REDACTED] signed as Deputy Branch Chief, M/FP.
b. [REDACTED] assigned as Chief, St/PR.

25X1A9a 15. The following ERA personnel left on PCS assignments:

a. [REDACTED] S/TF - assigned to [REDACTED] as an integrated analyst working on Bloc penetration activities.

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[REDACTED]

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